

VZCZCXYZ0009
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHQQT #0330 1281246
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 081246Z MAY 09
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0345
INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 8131
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 3535
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ MAY LIMA 3188
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL 4308
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0637

UNCLAS QUITO 000330

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

EEB/TPP/MTAA/ABT FOR ANN RYAN
USTR FOR JANE DOHERTY
USDA/OSTA FOR CLAY HAMILTON AND CASEY BEAN
USDA/FAS LIMA FOR AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR ETRD ECON EC
SUBJECT: ECUADOR'S RESPONSE TO H1N1 PORK TRADE BAN DEMARCHE

REF: STATE 44254

¶1. (SBU) This is in response to reftel demarche asking host countries to remove trade bans on pork due to H1N1 fears. On May 6, the DCM, accompanied by USDA/FAS, USDA/APHIS, and Econ representatives, met with Agriculture Minister Poveda to deliver the demarche points. The head of Agrocalidad (Ecuador's sanitary authority), and the Ministry of Agriculture's Under Secretary for Livestock were also in the meeting.

¶2. (SBU) After presentation of the demarche, Minister Poveda noted that the GOE planned that same day to replace Agrocalidad's current Resolution 030. Resolution 030, issued on April 28, banned the import of U.S. and Mexican pork and pork products, and swine and its genetic materials, due to H1N1 virus fears. Two draft resolutions are under consideration, one that would reportedly ban imports of live swine globally, and another that would ban only live swine from Canada, due to the recent human-pig transmission of H1N1 flu in that country. The resolution would last as long as Ecuador's state of emergency (currently 60 days). Upon issuance of a new resolution, Ecuadorian Customs would comply with the new requirements immediately and permit entry for those products that are no longer banned, said the Minister.

¶3. (SBU) The different GOE offices involved are evidently attempting to clarify and modify the trade restrictions, but their priorities appear slightly different and the outcome uncertain. The head of Agrocalidad declared that he would like to open Ecuador to all pork-related imports, while the Under Secretary for Livestock appeared more cautious. The Agriculture Minister noted that his personal preference would be to ban all live swine.

¶4. (SBU) Comment: These discrepancies may remain an obstacle to a rapid reversal of the April 28 ban on U.S. pork products, but we expect and hope for a less stringent restriction in the next few days.

HODGES